

Serial No. 09/375,045

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned application:

1. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin for placement in a crotch portion of an undergarment of a wearer, said sanitary napkin ~~having~~ comprising:
a main body with a longitudinal axis,
~~two a first longitudinal side area and an opposite longitudinal side areas; and~~
a central region intermediate said two opposite side areas,
~~said sanitary napkin being characterized by a preferential bending zone on said main body extending obliquely from one longitudinal side area of the sanitary napkin to an opposite longitudinal side area and obliquely crossing the longitudinal axis of the sanitary napkin at said central region.~~
a preferential bending zone extending from one longitudinal side area to an opposite longitudinal side area, said preferential bending zone having a first end located in said first longitudinal side area and a second end located in said opposite longitudinal side area, said preferential bending zone including a segment crossing the longitudinal axis of the sanitary napkin, said segment crossing the longitudinal axis obliquely in relation to said longitudinal axis.
2. (Original) A sanitary napkin as defined in claim 1, wherein said sanitary napkin having a thickness not exceeding about 5 mm.
3. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 1 comprising a plurality of preferential bending zones spaced apart from one another.
4. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 3, wherein said preferential bending zones intersect each other.

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5. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 3, wherein said preferential bending zones are operative to create resistance to lateral compression when said sanitary napkin is in use.
6. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 1, wherein said preferential bending zone is arcuate.
7. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 1, wherein said main body includes a fluid permeable cover layer, an absorbent system and a liquid impervious barrier layer.
8. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 7, wherein said preferential bending zone is an embossing on said absorbent system.
9. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 7, wherein said preferential bending zone is an embossing of said fluid permeable cover layer and on said absorbent system.
10. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claims 1, wherein said sanitary napkin includes a fastener for retaining said main body to an undergarment.
11. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to claim 10, wherein said fastener includes a flap.
- 12-22 (Canceled)